

**MINUTES OF THE BOROUGH OF EAST RUTHERFORD
MAYOR & COUNCIL
WORK MEETING HELD ON
AUGUST 29, 2017**

WORK MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR CASSELLA AT 6:07PM. FLAG SALUTE WAS HELD AND MAYOR CASSELLA READ THE FOLLOWING OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT WAS READ:

This meeting is a Work Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of East Rutherford and is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting was changed from August 15, 2017 and transmitted to the three newspapers listed below on August 9, 2107, posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

The Herald News

The Record

The Bergenite

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember	Present	Absent
Lahullier	X	
Perry		X
Stallone	X	
Ravettine	X	
Cronk	X	
Sorbera	X	

Also present were Borough Clerk Danielle Lorenc, Attorney Gerald Salerno and Borough Engineer Glenn Beckmeyer

Greg Stratham, of McNerney Associates, was present to answer any questions the Council had regarding the proposed settlements of four tax appeals as submitted by Assessor Denis McGuire. The properties being discussed are 850 Paterson Plank Road, 200 Route 17, 15 East Union Avenue and 25 East Union Avenue.

Councilman Lahullier asked why there was a huge difference on some of the settlement amounts. Greg stated that all aspects of the appeal are reviewed including appraisals, leases, etc. There is always a risk of facing high refunds.

Councilman Cronk said some of the appeals go back a few years and asked when they first find out about the appeals. Greg stated that they take some time to go through the courts and sometimes the years' work to the advantage of the borough because they can get the earlier years dismissed.

Councilman Sorbera requested a list of all pending tax appeals be given to the Council.

Councilman Lahullier asked when the American Dream assessment will be done. Greg stated that they have another meeting this week.

Councilman Ravettine asked who sets the threshold as to what is decided by the assessor and what comes before the Council. He recently found out that Adventure Realty has an approximate \$30,000 credit on their properties. He would like an audit of everything that has been done and anything that was done without the Council's knowledge is wrong.

Councilman Ravettine made a motion to have a list of all credits over \$1,000 over the last five years plus 2017 given to the Council before the next meeting – he would also like the assessor to attend the next meeting for questions:

Moved: Councilman Ravettine
Second: Councilman Lahullier
Roll Call: All present voted aye

Mayor Cassella submitted the following requests for approval:

Faust 8th Grade Committee requested use of the DPW lot for a car wash as well as the Little League restrooms on September 16 (rain date September 17)

Moved: Councilman Stallone
Second: Councilman Cronk
Roll Call: All present voted aye

Carlstadt PBA requests use of the Civic Center for a beefsteak on November 10th

Moved: Councilman Stallone
Second: Councilman Ravettine
Roll Call: All present voted aye

Councilman Stallone stated that a letter was received from a concerned citizen however no action will be taken because it was not signed by anyone.

Request to hold a wedding ceremony at Sesselman Park on September 24th

Moved: Councilman Stallone
Second: Councilman Cronk
Roll Call: All present voted aye

POLICE/COURT – COUNCILMAN STALLONE

Councilman Stallone requested an Executive Session for personnel.

Councilman Stallone has received complaints from neighbors on Hillside Terrace regarding concerns over trees on an easement next to their property. It is unknown who owns the property. Attorney Salerno will start a title search.

RECREATION – COUNCILMAN CRONK

No report for work meeting

FIRE DEPT/SQUAD/PW&UC – COUNCILMAN LAHULLIER

Councilman Lahullier stated that a letter was received from Branca Properties regarding the extension of the bike lanes on Murray Hill Parkway. Engineer Beckmeyer stated that the area does not have the same curb width as the other part of the streets. That area also has a lot of truck traffic and cars parking on the street. He would have to perform a survey to see if this is possible. He will follow up.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – GLENN BECKMEYER

Engineer Beckmeyer reported on the following items:

1. The Road Program is almost complete – the contractor will look to finish up after Labor Day
2. The 2017 Road Program will be ready to go out to bid in October
3. DOT will be accepting 2018 Road Program applications in October. They have also added in other categories this year such as drainage that he would like to apply for.
4. He received another shared service agreement from the County for Carlton Avenue. Certain issues were still not addressed.

5. He received a shared service agreement from the County for basic road paving. The only minor issue is that the County uses flagman however if the borough wants a police officer then we would have to supply and pay.
6. PSE&G will be sending over information for the installation of a new light at the island on Enoch Street. They will also be sending over paperwork for the moving of a pole in front of Café Capri.
7. Met with Councilman Cronk and Field Turf today for options to turf at Riggin Field.

DPW/RECYCLING/VEHICLE MAINT – COUNCILMAN RAVETTINE

Councilman Ravettine made a motion to have the labor attorney, Dave Corrigan, review the contracts for the Superintendent of the DPW as well help with the contract for the DPW Association:

Moved: Councilman Ravettine
Second: Councilman Stallone
Roll Call: All present voted aye

FINANCE/TECHNOLOGY/BLDG DEPT – COUNCILMAN SORBERA

Councilman Sorbera stated that a spending report was emailed to all the Council.

Councilman Sorbera requested an Executive Session for personnel.

Councilman Ravettine also requested an Executive Session for personnel.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – GERALD SALERNO

Attorney Salerno requested an Executive Session for litigation.

Attorney Salerno stated that discussion will take place next month regarding contracts for the exchange of the properties between the borough and the Board of Education. He also put the Regional Board of Ed Attorney on notice that the Riggin Field rent is up for negotiation per the contract. He asked for a committee to work with him on this. Councilman Cronk and Councilman Sorbera will assist.

A discussion was held on events being held at Riggin Field without the Council or any departments knowing what is going on.

Mayor Cassella asked for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 7:18PM:

EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the “Open Public Meetings Act” requires that a public body adopt a resolution at an open meeting before going into Closed Session to discuss a matter which excludes the public as permitted under Section 7b;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council will hold a closed meeting at 7:18PM on August 29, 2017 in Borough Hall to discuss the following matters:

1. Personnel
2. Litigation
3. Contract Negotiations

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of East Rutherford that the public be excluded from this portion of the meeting.

Moved: Councilman Lahullier
Second: Councilman Cronk
Roll Call: All present voted aye

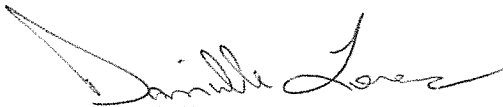
EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Cassella asked for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session at 8:20PM and reopen the public meeting:

Moved: Councilman Ravettine
Second: Councilman Stallone
Roll Call: All present voted aye

Mayor Cassella asked for a motion to adjourn the Work Meeting at 8:20PM:

Moved: Councilman Ravettine
Second: Councilman Stallone
Roll Call: All present voted aye



Danielle Lorenc, RMC